Statement

Revised Guidelines for the Scheme of Intergrated Development of Small and Medium Towns: Salient Features

The Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) aims at the development of selected regional growth centres with infrastructure and service facilities. The objective is to enable them to emerge as centres of economic growth and employment opportunities and arrest migration from rural areas and small towns to large and metropolitan cities. The revision of IDSMT guidelines was necessitated on account of two major factors (i) India's economic reforms and (ii) enactment of the Constitution (74th) Amendment Act providing for municipal decentralisation. Keeping in nview the need to strengthen infrastructure in urban areas which are emerging as centres of investment and economic growth and to promote decentralisation reforms with the objective of taking power to the people, certain modifications to the guidelines of the IDSMT Scheme which has been in operation form 6th Plan have been approved by the Cabinet on 18.7.95. The important among these changes are:—

1. Extention of the coverage of IDSMT Scheme to towns with a population upto 5 lakhs.

2. Applicability of the Scheme to Cities/Towns with elected municipal governments.

3. New financing pattern as follows:—

Category of Towns (Population)	Project Cost	Central Assistance (Grant) Maximum	State Share (Grant)	HUDCO Loan/ other financial institutions/ other sources
A (Less than 20000)	100	48	32	80 (20%)
B (20000 — 50000)	200	90	60	50 (25%)
C (50000 — 100000)	350	150	100	100 (29%)
D (1— 3 lakhs)	550	210	140	200 (36%)
E (3 — 5 Lakhs)	750	270	180	300 (40%)

The project costs indicated above are based on a "Minimum Project Cost" concept, implying that the costs of projects for a town in a particular category should be at least the amount indicated for that category in the column "Project Cost".

4. Enabling the selected cities and towns to take up a judicious mix of remunerative, cost recovery-based and non-remumerative projects, keeping the overall urban and regional development goals in views.

5. A regorous planning process consisting of the preparation of state urban development strategy paper, city/town investment plans and IDSMT project reports to implement such plans.

6. Provision of Central assitance for the preparation of City/Town Development Plans/IDSMT Project reports.

7. A package of municipal reforms in line with the 74th Amendment Act including creation of revolving fund at the municipal level to promote development of infrastructure on a continuing basis.

बिहार में विवेकाधीन कोटे से पेट्रोल और गैस एजेंसियों का दिया जाना

577. **श्री रामदेव भंडारी:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) बिहार के मधुबनी जिले में मंत्री के विवेकाधीन कोटे से पेट्रोल पम्प एवं गैस एजेंसियां

आवंटित किये जाने वाले व्यक्तियों के नामों, स्थानों और वर्षों का ब्यौरा क्या क्या है;

(ख) क्या उच्चतम न्यायालय में मामला लम्बित होने के बावजूद जिले के झंझारपुर खण्ड में मंत्री के विवेकाधीन कोटे से गैस एजेंसी की स्वीकृति दी गई है;

(ग) क्या सरकार उच्चतम न्यायालय में मामला दायर होने के बाद मंत्री के विवेकाधीन कोटे से दी गई ऐसी एजेंसियों को रद्द करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी० आर० बालू): (क) बिहार के मधुबनी जिले में सरकार द्वारा कोई पेट्रोल पम्प या गैस एजेन्सी अवंटित नहीं की गयी है।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Amending Article 370 for Greater Autonomy to J&K

578. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stand of the Government on amending Article 370 relating to special status of J & K; and

(b) what are the details of areas in which the Government are considering to grant greater autonomy to J&K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. SUBRAMONIYAN):

(a) The Government do not propose to amend article 370 of the Constitution or dilute the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) while Government is in favour of giving maximum autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir, it would not be feasible to spell out any details in this regard at this stage. The Government's view is that the details would need to be worked out after discussions when there is an elected Assembly and Government in the State.

Disposal of Plots, Houses, through Power of Attorney

579. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale and purchase of plots, built up houses and flats through the Power of Attorney has become a common practice in the metropolis;

(b) if so, whether this deprives the public exchequer of revenue worth crores of rupees which otherwise would have accrued to it by way of registration charges, stamp duty, etc; and

(c) if so, the effective steps proposed to be taken to remedy this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (c) Instances of sale andd purchase of properties through the General Power of Attorney (GPA) have come to the notice of the Government with a view to check the erasion of Stamp Duty & Registration charges through this, a proposal for compulsory registration of the GPA's and amendments to the Transfer of Property Act, Indian Stamps Act etc. is under consideration of the Government in consultation with Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Import of Coking Coal for Power Plant

580. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import 7 million tonnes of coking coal during 1996-97 to meet the demand of the power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated cost involved;

(c) the extent to which the imports are likely to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coking coal; and